Amended claims

1. Water-swellable sealing composition comprising a matrix formed by rubbers and a particulate material having a particle diameter of from 5 to 5,000 µm distributed therein,

wherein the material comprises a crosslinked polymer composition which comprises at least one polymer in which the content of monomer units derived from nonionic

hydrophilic acrylates or methacrylates makes up at least 30 mol%, wherein the nonionic hydrophilic acrylates or methacrylates correspond to the general formula

$$\begin{array}{c} R \\ H_2C \longrightarrow C=0 \\ X \longrightarrow CH_2 \\ CH_2 \longrightarrow CH_2 \\ O \longrightarrow Z \end{array}$$

wherein R = H or a methyl group, X = 0 or NH, m = 3 to 1,000 and Z = H or a C_1-C_4 -alkyl radical.

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2. Sealing composition according to claim 1, wherein the rubber is vulcanized or crosslinked to form an elastomer or vulcanized rubber.

3. Sealing composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein m = 5 to 200.

4. Sealing composition according to any one of claims 1
25 to 4, wherein an open-pore foam structure having a density of from 0.4 to 2 g/cm³ is present.

- 5. Sealing composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the material has an average particle size of from 100 to 800 $\mu m\,.$
- 5 6. Use of a water-swellable sealing composition according to any one of the preceding claims as a sealing and absorption material with respect to electrolyte-containing water during repeated wet-dry cycles.